

Insurgents Kept Down at Conference

By Spc. Jan Critchfield
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- August has been an important month for the fledgling Iraqi government. The entire world watched as conferences were held to determine important aspects of how this country will be run without a dictator at its helm.

With the international zone packed with hundreds of journalists covering the conference, even one unfortunately placed mortar round could make international headlines, giving the world an image of a violent country with no hope of peace and prosperity.

For this reason, the

"Headhunters" of the 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment and the rest of Task Force 1-9 stepped up area patrols. Their goal was to disrupt and destroy insurgent cells, whose aim is to impede political progress being made despite their violent actions.

Talil Square, the junction of two main Baghdad arterials and an area already known for its of anti-Iraqi insurgent activity, was the focus of a great deal of the Headhunters' firepower.

"Neutralization of anti-Iraqi forces in Talil Square is essential to a safe Baghdad [because] it is very close to the govern-

"The enemy can't predict when he has a safe time to operate.."

-Lt. Col. Thomas MacDonald

TF Headhunter Commander



Photos by Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD

Pfc. Richard Thomas (right) holds one of two young men arrested during security operations in central Baghdad's Talil Square. A testing procedure revealed that the two had recently handled explosive materials.

ment seat of power [in the International Zone]," said Lt. Col. Thomas MacDonald, commander of Task Force 1-9's Headhunters.

The Headhunters' area of operation borders the International Zone and has been the origin of insurgent mortar fire into the International Zone in the past.

"What we're doing is we're absolutely saturating the area with patrols, trying to change our patterns up with a combination of mounted patrols, dismounted patrols [and] sniper emplacements to keep the enemy off balance," MacDonald said. "[The

enemy] can't predict when he has a safe time to operate."

The efforts of the men of the task force proved a great success. Twenty-nine suspected insurgents were arrested, and five caches containing rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, and other assorted arms were seized from August 15 through August 19, when the conferences ended.

Most importantly, no mortars were fired from this area into the International Zone during the high-level meetings.

"We've been very successful in disrupting their activities this week," MacDonald said.



Medic Spc. Mohammed Adams of Company C, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, takes a breather after treating three Iraqi National Guardsmen injured in a grenade attack at the Al-Jauyifer police station in Baghdad.

Computer-Wielding Soldiers Keep BCT Connected

By Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin
10th Mountain Division

CAMP VICTORY, Baghdad - A day without the Brigade Automated Management Office is like a day without sunshine. Well, there may be sunshine, but no one would hear about it without BAMO there to run its many communications

services.

Soldiers from BAMO, currently attached to the 10th Signal Battalion as part of the new brigade Unit of Action, handle almost all forms of computer communications and automation for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. Without BAMO, Soldiers wouldn't even be able to

turn on their computers, said Sgt. 1st Class Sean Walters, non-commissioned officer in charge.

"BAMO is the gateway for Soldiers to get in touch with the rest of the world," he said. "Without us, everything would shut down. Internet services would stop; any World Wide Web and SIPR capabilities would stop. They'd have to use carrier pigeons if we weren't here."

BAMO controls the vital communication tools the brigade possesses, said Chief Warrant Officer Richard Kustra, a signal systems support technician.

"You always need someone to control the network," he said. "We have our own domain services, web services and we support about 500 users. We support the (tactical operations centers) and make their lives easier."

A shining example of BAMO's necessity is the "Command Post of the Future," a state-of-the-art

facility the brigade commander uses to gather information from around the world. CPOF provides the brigade operations center with three-dimensional imagery, multiple map layovers, and briefs from the 1st Cavalry Division by television.

"It's an integrative work station on steroids," Kustra said. "We provide the feed from division to brigade. It provided a common operating picture for the division. The commander can see maps where all the units are and move the icons around. It is his eyes for the battlefield."

Without this and other technologies, the 2nd BCT would not be able to contact the outside world.

Soldiers from BAMO also repair computers with internal problems

"Our help desk operations fix Soldiers' computers, whether it's hardware or software," Walters said. "Nine out of 10 times, we can fix the problem."



By Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin, 10th Mtn. Div.

Spc. Malcolm Samuel, Pfc. Derek Stanley and Sgt. Dazmar Lockhart, from the Brigade Automated Management Office of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, work out computer issues Aug. 10 in Baghdad. BAMO is responsible for all of the BCT's computers and communications.



SAFETY TIP Giant Centipede (harmful)



Over 1 foot long, this insect's first pair of legs behind the head is modified into a pair of fangs, which contain a poison gland. A bite from the giant centipede is not deadly, but can cause severe pain and swelling that persists for days. If possible, avoid sleeping on the ground. Shake out boots, bedding, and clothing prior to use, and never walk barefoot. If bitten or stung, seek medical attention immediately.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

hurry
biSOORa

Wednesday

High: 110
Low: 82



Thursday

High: 112
Low: 84



Friday

High: 112
Low: 84



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

Eat More Produce Study Says

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) -- More than 85 percent of consumers are not eating the federally recommended minimum of five servings of produce a day, according to an AC Nielsen poll of 2,472 people.

George Washington Virtually Reborn

MOUNT VERNON, Va. (Reuters) -- Researchers are embarking on a massive detective hunt to flesh out the founding father's appearance in every detail. Specialists are gathering dozens of artifacts including snippets of hair and clothing that will be analyzed over the next year to make lifesize models of the former president at three different points in his life, which will go on display in 2006 as part of a new \$85 million education center and museum at Mount Vernon.



Wal-Mart Customers Wed

BOISE, Idaho (AP) -- Somewhere between the junk food aisle and the automotive department, Pat Byrd and Bill Hughes fell in love. They celebrated their blooming love with a ceremony Friday in Wal-Mart's garden center. Neither work there, but both bride and groom spend up to six hours a day at the store.

Alma Artist Saves Barns on Canvas

ALMA, Ark. (Democrat-Gazette) - Cathy Mason is on a mission to preserve Arkansas barns. Not with hammer and nails, but with paint, a brush and canvas.

Mason, who lives on a farm northeast of Alma, has spent the past four years searching the back roads of Crawford County for barns - standing, leaning or fallen down. So far, she's located about 500 of the farm structures in various stages of disrepair. She photographed the barns and is in the process of painting pictures of 27 of them.

In a show titled "Is Your Barn Painted?" Mason will exhibit the first 13 beginning Sunday at the Center for Arts and Education in Van Buren. She said she hopes her exhibit will help preserve the image of a disappearing American icon.



Rootsweb

An old barn still stands in Oden, Ark.

"I want to make the people of Arkansas realize there's a lot of history in their own back yards," Mason said.

Mason, a farm girl with fond memories of playing in and around her family's barn, said barns built 60 to 70 years ago are disintegrating, taking with

them a way of life.

Barns were important in the lives of farmers and often reflected their talent and character.

To her, barns are the art of the people. They participated in a creative process by designing the architecture, cutting the boards and erecting the structures.

54-Year-Old Boots Help End Summer Training

NEW YORK (Army News) - Fifty-four years ago plebe Douglas J. O'Connor spent his cadet basic training summer orientation, otherwise known as "beast barracks" to new cadets, breaking in a new pair of brown World War II-era combat boots.

Retired Maj. Gen. Douglas J. O'Connor, USMA Class of 1954, completed the march Aug. 10 with this year's plebes in the same pair of boots that carried him through his own "end of Beast" event so many years ago.

"If you give your boots regular "Kiwi" snacks they will last forever," he said.

O'Connor wore his 54-year-old buckle boots proudly as he helped lead the alumni contingent that made up the rear element

of the march. A group of graduates have accompanied the plebes on the march back from Beast for the last five years. Plebes began classes Aug. 16.

More than 160 graduates attended this year's event. Although some only marched the final two miles of the 15-mile trek from farthest point of the training area on Lake Frederick to the cadet barracks on the main post, 140 of them marched the entire length.

While many of his old grad marching mates were sporting a collection of spiffy new -- and nearly new -- hiking boots and sneakers from the finest retailers, O'Connor proudly matched them stride-for-stride in his vintage footwear. Positioned in the

middle of the front row of the "old grad" element, he bellowed out the command "Eyes, Right!" as the alums passed the superintendent's house.

The affable big, loud Irishman, as his marching mates described him, even has a plan for his boots.

"I was thinking of having them bronzed and sending them to the Smithsonian," he said with a laugh, only half-kidding.

After the day's march was over, the retired two-star general talked about his boots. He even pulled out a New York Times advertisement showing a retro version of the same boots retailing for \$395.

"Mine were standard issue," he added, chuckling once again. "They were free."



AR News

Maj. Michael Anti won a silver medal Aug. 22 in men's 50-meter three-position rifle shooting in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games. China's Zhanbo Jia won the gold medal with 1,264.5 points. Anti took the silver medal with 1,263.1 points. Austria's Christian Planer claimed the bronze medal with a 1,262.8 total.

US Sets New Gold Standard in SoftBall

ATHENS, Greece (AP) - They leave the Olympics with gold medals for the third straight time, olive wreaths crowning their heads and a lasting legacy that's just a shade off perfection.

The U.S. softball team not only was the real American Dream Team of these Olympics, it was the most dominant team of the Athens Games - and maybe any other.

"This is the best one I've ever coached," Mike Candrea said. "It's probably the best team I'll ever see. I think it will go down as a team people will talk about for a long time."

They outthit it, outran it, and outclassed it while virtually rewriting the Olympic softball record book.

Displaying unmatched power on the mound, around the basepaths and in the batter's box, the United States won gold with a 5-1 victory over Australia on

Monday, completing a nearly untarnished romp through an Olympic tournament the Americans made their own.

From their opening-game rout of Italy, to their gut-wrenching win over Japan and capped by their third win over the Aussies, the Americans showed - that at least in the softball world - they are alone on the diamond.

"This is the greatest feeling in the world," outfielder Kelly Kretschman said. "We made it look easy but every game was tough."

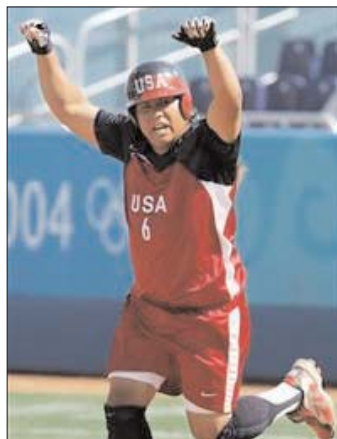
Australia coach Simon Roskvist said there wasn't a tougher opponent.

"We had to play fantastic softball to beat them and we didn't," Roskvist said. "I don't think there

could have been a tougher opponent."

Women's softball has never been played better, at least not since it became an Olympic sport in 1996. However, it's guaranteed a spot in the lineup only through 2008.

"Softball is dominated by the U.S.A.," said catcher Stacey Nuveman, who homered. "And that's just the way it is."



AP

Crystl Bustos celebrates as she rounds the bases after hitting a two-run home run Monday.

| Medals | G | S | B | Tot. |
|---|----|----|----|------|
|  | 23 | 26 | 17 | 66 |
|  | 23 | 15 | 12 | 50 |
|  | 6 | 16 | 19 | 41 |

Sports Shorts

US Avenges World Cup Loss



ATHENS, Greece (AP) - Heather O'Reilly, who had Mia Hamm posters on her wall

just a few years ago, scored in the ninth minute of the extra period Monday to give the United States a 2-1 victory over World Cup champion Germany and a place in Thursday's Olympic gold-medal game. The win gives the Fab Five - long-standing stars Hamm, Julie Foudy, Joy Fawcett, Brandi Chastain and Kristine Lilly - a chance to go out as champions in their final tournament together.

Wariner Leads Sweep of 400

ATHENS, Greece (AP) - Picking up where Michael Johnson left off, Wariner became the sixth straight American to win the Olympic 400 title, leading a U.S. sweep of the medals Monday. Wariner finished in 44.00 seconds - a per-



sonal best and the fastest time in the world this year. Johnson still holds the world record of 43.18.